Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 241229Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 139
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1546

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC TECH BR GW NL
SUBJECT: URENCO FUELING OF FRG NUCLEAR REACTORS IN BRAZIL

REF: (A) STATE 64417, (B) STATE 65374, (C) PARIS 8408

1. CHARGE SPOKE THIS MORNING WITH MFA STATE SECRETARY KOOIJMANS ON BAIS STATE 64417 AND PROVIDED TEXT OF FRENCH ASSURANCES BASED ON CORRECTION STATE 65374. SHE REVIEWED DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH UK AND EXPRESSED US HOPE THAT URENCO WOULD DEFER NUCLEAR FUEL CONTRACTS IN LIGHT FRENCH ASSURANCES AND FACTORS COVERED IN NYE-KOOKJMANS CONVERSATIONS.

2. KOOIJMANS RESPONDED THAT DUTCH COULD GO ALONG WITH DEFERRAL. HE SAW NO REASON TO SPECIFY NEW DATE FOR RENEWAL DECISION, AND INDEED DUTCH WOULD BE OPPOSED TO DOING SO. HE EXPRESSED SOME DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER A PROBLEM OF THIS COMPLICATED CHARACTER COULD BE SUCCESS-FULLY DEALT WITH ON MARGIN OF EC MINISTERIAL IN ROME,
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PARTICULARLY GIVEN CONTROVERSIAL AND DIFFICULT PROBLEMS BEFORE MINISTERS.

3. KOOIJMANS SAID DUTCH HAD NEVER RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM THEIR OWN APPROACHES TO UK AND FRG AND ASSUMED THIS COULD BE EXPLAINED BY ONGOING DISCUSSIONS US HAD BEEN HAVING WITH BOTH. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION CHARGE

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SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION HERE REGARDING GENSCHER DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. KOOIJMANS THOUGHT FRG POSITION MIGHT BE UNDERGOING SOME CHANGE IN LIGHT OF RECENT JUDICIAL DECISION REGARDING PROPOSED NEW GERMAN NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTALLATIONS. IN ONE SENSE HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT REMOVE PART OF PRESSURE FOR URENCO EXPANSION SINCE URENCO HAD ALSO BEEN SCHEDULED TO SUPPLY FUEL FOR THESE PROSPECTIVE PLANTS.

4. KOOIJMANS EMPHASIZED THAT BECAUSE OF CURRENT DUTCH GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY REGARDING GOVT AUTHORITY, SITUATION HERE HAD CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. REGRETTABLY QUESTION OF ALMELO EXPANSION WOULD NOW BECOME INTEGRAL PAR OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGN GIVEN CONTENT OF PARTY PLATFORMS.

5. TURNING TO QUESTION OF BRAZILIAN ATTITUDE KOOIJMANS OPINED THAT IF FRG WENT ALONG WITH DEFERRAL, BRAZIL COULD NOT RESIST. IN HIS JUDGMENT BRAZILIANS HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO, PARTICULARLY SINCE SOVIETS HAD NOW INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPLY NUCLEAR FUEL FOR BRAZILIAN REACTORS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BRAZILIAN INTRANSIGENCE COULD JEOPARDIZE RELATIONSHIP WITH FRG ON WHICH BRAZIL OBVIOUSLY MUST DEPEND FOR COOPERATION IN ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM.
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